



# NEWS RELEASE

## Rural Development

3727 Government Street, Alexandria, Louisiana 71302 • <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>

---

Release No.: 02172004-1

**Contact:** Holly L. Martien, (318) 473-7917  
[holly.martien@la.usda.gov](mailto:holly.martien@la.usda.gov)

### **VARNADO WATER DISTRICT RECEIVES \$3.9 MILLION IN USDA FUNDING FOR EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENT OF WATER SYSTEM Residents of Thomas, State Line, Pine, Sheridan, and Surrounding Rural Areas to Benefit**

FRANKLINTON, February 17, 2004 – In a ceremony today at the Washington Parish Courthouse in Franklinton, Louisiana, USDA Rural Utilities Service Administrator Hilda Gay Legg, Washington, DC, joined Michael B. Taylor, State Director, USDA Rural Development, in presenting the Varnado Water Works District \$3.9 million to expand and improve their water system.

“This funding will enable the Varnado Water Works District to offer clean, safe drinking water to an additional 400 customers in Thomas, State Line, Pine, Sheridan, and surrounding rural areas,” said Michael B. Taylor. “Many residents of this area currently have shallow water wells, and many of these wells will not meet state and federal drinking water minimum health standards.”

This project was funded by USDA Rural Development with a \$2.7 million loan and \$1.2 million grant. “USDA Rural Development helps improve and expand rural utility services—such as water systems—through the USDA Rural Utilities Service,” said Hilda Gay Legg, Administrator for the USDA Rural Utilities Service. “The funds we are presenting today will assist several communities in Washington Parish by offering a better quality of life to their residents.”

USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Further information on USDA Rural Development’s loan and grant programs can be obtained by visiting Rural Development’s web site at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la/>.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider, and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9140.

#